

This comment is to voice my opposition to the proposed changes to allow broadcast companies to own more television stations and newspapers in a local area. The airways are the property of the citizens of this country not large media companies to enhance their profit margins at the public's expense. Allowing companies to own more stations will have the effect of limiting various points of view in reporting the news and expressing opinion, styles of music and entertainment, etc. necessary for a healthy, functioning democracy. The public's safety in the rapid, efficient reporting of local emergency situations is also of concern as has already been illustrated in the well known case in North Dakota where local officials were unable to contact the conglomerate owned radio stations because the stations were operating on total automation at the time with no one present to answer the phone. Our country and the interests of its citizens are best served when the government, here the FCC, promotes the things that serve to enhance the functions of democracy and a well informed public, not when it acts as the tool of business whose prime interest is making money.